

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Avinash Thombre :

APPLICATION NO.: To Be Assigned : Examiner: Susan T Tran

FILING DATE: Herewith : Group Art Unit: 1615

TITLE: Palatable Controlled-Released Formulations for :  
Companion Animals

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**Preliminary Amendment**

In the parent case, a response was filed to the Final Office Action mailed October 31, 2003, a one-month Petition for extension of time is submitted herewith, extending the time for reply to February 28, 2004. A 37 CFR 1.53(b) Continuation Application is also submitted herewith. This Preliminary Amendment, is responsive to the matters raised in the Final Office Action. Please amend this application as indicated herein.

Amendments to the Specification are on page 2, the Listing of Claims begins on page 3 and ends on page 5. Remarks begin on page 6.